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VEGETATIVE COVER FOR WIND EROSION CONTROL

Growing crops or crop residues that cover the land will prevent soil blowing. Contour tillage, terracing, and other means of water conservation should be practiced in the Great Plains area to assure sufficient vegetative growth on crop lands to prevent wind erosion. Highly erodible fields should be retired from cultivation to permanent grazing land.



Failure of wheat crop due to lack of moisture permitted this field to suffer severe wind erosion in 1936. It must be stabilized with a cover crop before it can be farmed again. (See opposite picture.)



Terracing and contour tillage conserved moisture sufficient to produce a good cover crop of milo on this field. The sorghums have generally been found to be the most dependable erosion-resistant crops for the Plains.



Sorghum stubble of good height is left on this field during the winter to protect it from erosion. All erodible land on the Plains should be covered with vegetation during the winter. Weeds may serve as a cover crop if no other is available.



Plowing wheat stubble with a one-way disk. The partially exposed straw serves to protect the land against erosion. Wheat may be grown on the heavier soils of the Plains where water conservation is practiced and crop residues are utilized to maintain the humus in the soil.



A terraced wheat field stripped with sorghum to assist in checking erosion. Sorghum field borders and strips on wheat land furnish protection from the force of high winds and soil blowing from adjacent land.

A permanent grass cover is being established on a formerly cultivated field. Thousands of acres of erodible land in the Plains, that should have remained in sod, were placed in cultivation.